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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,395	12/28/2001	Paul Gervasi	13870	2073

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EXAMINER

GIBSON, ROBERT W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3634

DATE MAILED: 02/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.


Art Unit: 3634

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-15, and 35-40, drawn to a collapsible display and shelf module, classified in class 211, subclass 149.
 - II. Claims 16-34, and 41, drawn to a shelf module, classified in class 211, subclass 153.
2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions Group I and Group II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because claims 1 and 35 do not recite the particulars of the locking device recited in claims 16, 26, and 41. The subcombination has separate utility such as with other displays, and not necessarily the collapsible display of Group I.
3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement, to be complete, must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert W. Gibson, Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.


ROBERT W. GIBSON, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3634

rwg

February 14, 2003